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FOREST RESEARCH NOTES

U.S.DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
FOREST SERVICE
CALIFORNIA FOREST AND RANGE
EXPERIMENT STATION *

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No. 45 July 15, 1945

PRODUCTION OF LUMBER, LATH, AND SHINGLES IN CALIFORNIA AND NEVADA, 1944

(Preliminary data, subject to revision)

In cooperation with the Bureau of the Census of the U. S. Department of Commerce, preliminary statistics of lumber production in California and Nevada are presented herewith. These data should be essentially correct, since they are based on preliminary tabulations of complete returns. Final statistics will, however, be issued by the Bureau of the Census in the usual manner.

Lumber production in California in 1944 reached a new high, being about 5 percent more than in the peak year of 1943. This is a remarkable industry achievement in view of the difficulties of operation centering mainly about manpower and equipment shortages. Both the pine and redwood regions registered increases this year.

The production data in tables 1, 2, and 3 are based upon reports from 319 active mills in the California pine region, and 109 active mills in the redwood region. Included in these totals are 15 active shingle mills 7 in the pine region, and 8 in the redwood region.

For the entire State and all species, the production of 2,468,943 M feet b.m. (table 1) is about 5 percent more than total State wide production in 1943. There was practically no change in the production of redwood. The most significant decrease was in the cut of ponderosa pine which fell off about 6 percent. The cut of Douglas-fir rose about 11 percent, while white fir production increased about 59 percent. In the past three years the utilization of white fir has nearly tripled. There were marked increases also in the production of other softwoods, such as Sitka spruce, incense cedar, and sugar pine. The output of sawed cross ties, nine feet or less in length, was 30,746 M feet b.m., or about 1 percent of total lumber production. Shingle production increased about 40 percent, but lath production fell off nearly 65 percent. Lumber stocks at sawmills increased from 480,788 M feet b.m. on December 31, 1943 to 538,858 M feet b.m. on December 31, 1944 - 58,070 M feet b.m., or about 12 percent. Active sawmills in the State rose from 365 in 1943 to 413 in 1944. It is estimated that there were in addition 87 sawmills which were idle throughout all of 1944, but most of these were small mills of low potential output.

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* MAINTAINED AT BERKELEY, CALIFORNIA, IN COOPERATION WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA.

In the pine region lumber production in 1944 was 1,821,007 M feet b.m. (table 2), or approximately 5.4 percent more than the output in 1943. Increased production of white fir (+60.9 percent), sugar pine (+16.7 percent), Douglas-fir (+9.7 percent), and incense cedar (+40.7 percent), more than offset the decrease registered by ponderosa pine (6.7 percent). The cut of ponderosa pine represented 58.2 percent of total regional production, followed by white fir representing 15.3 percent. The 33 mills cutting 15 million feet or more represented 69.3 percent of the total cut. There were 36 more active sawmills in the pine region in 1944 than in 1943, due mainly to an increase in the number of small mills. There were 11 less idle sawmills in 1944 than in 1943. The output of sawed cross ties, nine feet or less in length, was 11,841 M feet b.m., or about 0.6 percent of total lumber production. Lumber stocks increased 14.3 percent during the year, and although there was a decrease in the production of lath, the output of shingles practically doubled.

In the redwood region lumber production of 647,936 M feet b.m. was about 3.5 percent greater than the 1943 cut. Practically the same volume of redwood was cut this year as last (461 million feet). Most of the overall regional increase in production was due to an upswing in the output of Douglas fir, which rose from 151 million feet to 171 million feet, or 13.1 percent. White fir production increased from 7,479 M feet b.m. in 1943 to 9,376 M feet b.m. in 1944. The 12 mills cutting over 10 million feet accounted for 77.5 percent of total regional production. There were 101 active sawmills in the region in 1944 as contrasted to 89 in 1943. The output of sawed cross ties, nine feet or less in length, was 18,905 M feet b.m., or about 2.9 percent of total lumber production. Lumber stocks of 77,214 M feet b.m. at the end of the year varied only slightly from the volume on hand at the beginning of the year. The output of lath was 54.4 percent less than in 1943, but shingle production increased 34.5 percent.

Table 1:- Production of lumber, by kind of wood, and of sawed ties, lath and shingles
California and Nevada,[1/] 1943 and 1944
(Preliminary data, subject to revision)

Species	Lumber production (M feet, b.m.) 1943 Quantity	1943 Percent	1944 Quantity	1944 Percent	Change in 1944 from 1943 Percent
Ponderosa pine	1,135,652	48.3	1,060,~~55~~627	43.0	-6.6
Redwood 2/	460,829	19.6	461,937	18.7	+0.2
Douglas-fir	328,395	13.9	365,~~4~~787	14.8	+11.3
Sugar pine	211,047	9.0	246,~~32~~253	10.0	+16.7
White fir	181,017	7.7	288,~~5~~789	11.7	+59.~~4~~3
Incense cedar	28,856	1.2	40,596	1.6	+40.7
Port Orford cedar	3,200	0.1	2,156	0.1	-32.6
Sitka spruce	2,100	0.1	3,017	0.1	+43.7
Other softwoods	1,317	0.1	100	---	-92.4
Hardwoods	179	0.0+	181	---	+1.1
TOTAL	2,352,592	100.0	2,468,943	100.0	+4.9
Sawed ties MBM 3/	—		30,746		-
Lath (thousands)	10,185		3,576		-64.9
Shingles (squares) 4/	45,090		63,371		+40.5
Stocks of lumber, Dec.31	480,788		538,858		+12.1
Number of active mills reporting	378		428		+13.2

1/ Combined to avoid disclosing output of individual establishments.
2/ Includes big tree (Sequoia gigantea) in pine region.
3/ Represents quantity of sawed cross ties, nine feet or less in length, included under total quantity lumber sawed.
4/ Includes shakes reported as such.

Table 3:- Production of lumber, by kind of wood and class of mill, and of sawed ties, lath and shingles
California Redwood Region 1/ 1944
(Preliminary data, subject to revision)

Class of mill	Total mills		Lumber sawed (M feet, b.m.)									Lumber on hand		Sawed 2/ cross ties	Lath	Shingles 3/
	Idle	Active	Redwood	Douglas fir	White fir	Sitka spruce	Port Orford cedar	Ponderosa pine	Hard-woods	Total Quantity	Total Percent	Dec. 31, 1943	Dec. 31, 1944			
	No.	No.										MBM	MBM	MBM	M pcs.	Squares
8 (50 MM and over)	0	4	238,745	47,904	2,466					289,115	44.7	48,834	48,760	13,016	165	25,179
7 (25 MM to 50 MM)	0	4	117,821	12,716	2,323					132,860	20.5	18,516	18,735	3,404	2,704	7,593
5 and 6 4/ (10 MM to 25 MM)	0	4	43,878	29,312	3,787	2,941				79,918	12.3	5,292	4,086	1,445	182	1,787
4 (5 MM to 10 MM)	1	8	31,992	27,659			1,507			61,158	9.4	3,511	4,408	40		
3 (1 MM to 5 MM)	2	28	20,613	46,431	500		638	237		68,419	10.6	326	579	381	50	
2 (500 M to 1 MM)	4	15	4,249	~~4,756~~ 4,656	~~500~~			616		9,521	1.5	340	542	412		150
1 (50 M to 500 M)	7	31	3,719	2,388		72		395	178	6,752	1.0	8	104	189		1,125
0 (under 50 M)	6	7	87	91		4	11			193	-	0	0	18	300	10
Shingle	4	8														25,346
All classes	24	109	461,104	~~170,257~~ 171,157	~~9,376~~ 9,076	3,017	2,156	1,248	178 5/	647,936	100.0	76,827	77,214	18,905	3,401	61,190

1/ Redwood region includes counties of Del Norte, Humboldt, western Mendocino, Sonoma, western Napa, Marin, Santa Clara, San Mateo, Monterey and Santa Cruz. Remainder of State considered the pine region.

2/ Represents quantity of sawed cross ties, nine feet or less in length, included under total quantity lumber sawed.

3/ Includes shakes reported as such.

4/ Classes 5 and 6 combined to avoid disclosing cut of individual mills. There are 3 mills in class 6 and 1 in class 5.

5/ Includes 64 M.B.M. tanbark oak, 50 M.B.M. California black oak and valley oak, 6 M.B.M. California laurel, and 58 M.B.M. of alder.

Table 2:- Production of lumber, by kind of wood and class of mill, and of sawed ties, lath, and shingles
Pine Region[1] - California and Nevada 1944
(Preliminary data, subject to revision)

Class of mill	Total mills		Lumber sawed (M feet, b. m.)									Lumber on hand		Sawed[2] cross ties	Lath	Shingles[3]
	Idle	Active	Ponderosa pine	Sugar pine	White fir	Douglas fir	Incense cedar	Other softwoods	Hard-woods	Total		Dec. 31, 1943	Dec. 31, 1944			
										Quantity	Percent					
	No.	No.										MBM	MBM	MBM	M pcs.	Squares
8 (50 MM and over)	0	5	366,996	74,108	67,096	11,113	7,251			526,564	28.9	92,776	101,417	1,107		
7 (25 MM to 50 MM)	0	13	238,698	78,648	94,816	36,137	5,627			453,926	24.9	130,126	148,980	1,485		
6 (15 MM to 25 MM)	1	15	159,442	36,169	44,130	36,050	6,530			282,321	15.5	97,765	102,946	165		
5 (10 MM to 15 MM)	0	15	80,016	22,455	28,849	38.802	4,181			174,303	9.7	49,963	57,571	6,099		
4 (5 MM to 10 MM)	1	22	77,920	18,625	23,023	35,543	7,020			162,131	8.9	20,478	27,903	2,511		
3 (1 MM to 5 MM)	2	76	105,445	12,420	17,720	32,271	9,047	750		177,653	9.7	11,930	20,103	474	25	
2 (500 M to 1 MM)	4	33	16,120	2,723	2,065	2,225	507	40		23,680	1.3	460	1,423	0		250
1 (50 M to 500 M)	26	101	11 14,~~04~~6	08 1,~~15~~4	1,511	2,361	432	143	2	19,649	1.1	458	1,266	0		574
0 (Under 50 M)	33	32	626	21	3	128	1		1	780	-	5	35	0		20
Shingle	2	7													150	1,337
All classes	69	319	7 1,059,3~~0~~9	25 246,~~32~~3	279,213	194,630	40,596	[4]933	[5]3	1,821,007	100.0	403,961	461,644	11,841	175	2,181

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[1] See footnote [1] table 3. Includes production of 1 Class 3 mill in Nevada. Other Nevada mills (4 Class 0) were idle during 1944.

[2] Represents quantity of sawed cross ties, nine feet or less in length. included under total quantity lumber sawed.

[3] Includes shakes reported as such.

[4] Includes 833 M.B.M. big tree, 80 M.B.M. western white pine, and 20 M.B.M. lodgepole pine.

[5] Entire hardwood cut is California black oak.

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